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Security Council

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S/PRST/1995/8
17 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3501st meeting of the Security Council, held on 17 February 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at the continued fighting around Bihac and deplores the serious humanitarian situation in the Bihac area. It reaffirms its support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR.

"The Security Council recalls the statement of the President of the Security Council of 6 January 1995 (S/PRST/1995/1). It reiterates the importance it attaches to full compliance with the agreements between the Bosnian parties on a cease-fire and on a complete cessation of hostilities in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded on 23 December 1994 and 31 December 1994 respectively (S/1995/8). All involved must now make a concerted effort to consolidate what has been achieved so far to avoid the risk of a renewed outbreak of hostilities.

"The Security Council demands that all forces in the Bihac area cease fighting immediately and cooperate fully with UNPROFOR in achieving an effective cease-fire. The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of the continued violations of the international border between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"The Security Council condemns the recent obstruction of humanitarian convoys destined for the Bihac area by the Croatian Serb and Abdic forces. It welcomes the fact that convoys are now getting through, and calls upon all parties and others concerned henceforth to facilitate the unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance and complete freedom of movement for UNPROFOR."

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22 February 1995

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3503rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 February 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "An Agenda for Peace", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's position paper entitled 'Supplement to an Agenda for Peace' (S/1995/1) as an important contribution to the debate on the development of the United Nations activities related to international peace and security in all its aspects at the beginning of the year in which the Organization celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary. The Council notes that the paper contains a wide range of conclusions and recommendations with regard to instruments for resolving conflict. The Council is of the view that in the light of recent developments and experience gained, efforts should be made to further enhance the Organization's ability to perform the tasks laid down for it under the Charter. The Council reiterates that, in performing the above-mentioned tasks, the purposes and principles of the Charter should always be strictly observed.

"The Security Council welcomes and shares the priority given by the Secretary-General to action to prevent conflict. It encourages all Member States to make the fullest possible use of instruments of preventive action, including the Secretary-General's good offices, the dispatch of special envoys of the Secretary-General and the deployment, with the consent as appropriate of the host country or countries, of small field missions for preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. The Council believes that adequate resources must be made available within the United Nations system for these actions. It notes the problem identified by the Secretary-General in finding senior persons to act as his special representative or special envoy and encourages Member States which have not yet done so to provide the Secretary-General with the names of persons who might be considered by him for such posts, together with other resources both human and material which might be useful to such missions. It encourages the Secretary-General to make full use of resources thus put at his disposal.

"The Security Council endorses the view expressed by the Secretary-General concerning the crucial importance of economic and social development as a secure basis for lasting peace. Social and economic development can be as valuable in preventing conflicts as in healing the wounds after conflicts have occurred. The Council urges States to support the efforts of the United Nations system with regard to preventive and post-conflict peace-building activities and, in this context, to provide necessary assistance for the economic and social development of countries, especially those which have suffered or are suffering from conflicts.

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's analysis regarding peace-keeping operations. It recalls the statement made by its President on 3 May 1994 (S/PRST/1994/22) which, inter alia, listed factors to be taken into account in establishing peace-keeping operations. It notes that in resolving conflicts, primary emphasis should continue to be placed on the use of peaceful means rather than force. Without prejudice to its ability to respond to situations on a case-by-case basis, and rapidly and flexibly as the circumstances require, it reiterates the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. It underlines the need to conduct peace-keeping operations with a clearly defined mandate, command structure, time-frame and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to a conflict: it stresses the importance of the consistent application of these principles to the establishment and conduct of all peace-keeping operations. It stresses the importance it attaches to the provision of the fullest possible information to the Council to assist it in making decisions regarding the mandate, duration and termination of current operations. It also emphasizes the importance of providing troop contributors with the fullest possible information.

"The Security Council shares the Secretary-General's concern regarding the availability of troops and equipment for peace-keeping operations. It recalls earlier statements by the President of the Council on the subject and reiterates the importance of improving the capacity of the United Nations for rapid deployment and reinforcement of operations. To that end, it encourages the Secretary-General to continue his study of options aimed at improving the capacity for such rapid deployment and reinforcement. The Council believes that the first priority in improving the capacity for rapid deployment should be the further enhancement of the existing stand-by arrangements, covering the full spectrum of resources, including arrangements for lift and headquarters capabilities, required to mount and execute peace-keeping operations. It strongly encourages the Secretary-General to take further steps in this regard, including the establishment of a comprehensive database to cover civilian as well as military resources. In this context, it considers that particular attention should be given to the greatest possible interoperability between elements identified in such arrangements. The Council reiterates its call to Member States not already doing so to participate in the stand-by arrangements. While affirming the principle that contributing Governments should ensure that their troops arrive with all the equipment needed to be fully operational, the Council also encourages the Secretary-General and Member States to continue to consider means, whether in the context of stand-by

arrangements or more broadly, to address the requirements of contingents which may need additional equipment or training.

"The Security Council strongly supports the Secretary-General's conclusion that peace-keeping operations need an effective information capacity, and his intention to address this requirement in future peace-keeping operations from the planning stage.

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's ideas regarding post-conflict peace-building. It agrees that an appropriately strong overall United Nations contribution needs to be sustained after the successful conclusion of a peace-keeping operation, and encourages the Secretary-General to study ways and means of ensuring effective coordination between the United Nations and other agencies involved in post-conflict peace-building, and to take active steps to ensure that such coordination takes place in the immediate aftermath of a peace-keeping operation. The measures described by the Secretary-General may also be required, with the consent of the State or States concerned, after successful preventive action and in other cases where an actual peace-keeping deployment does not take place.

"The Security Council shares the Secretary-General's assessment of the paramount importance of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Such proliferation is a threat to international peace and security. Appropriate measures will be taken in this respect in particular where international treaties provide for recourse to the Council when their provisions are violated. The Council underlines the need for all States to fulfil their obligations in respect of arms control and disarmament, in particular in regard to weapons of mass destruction.

"The Security Council takes note of the assessment of the Secretary-General of the importance of 'micro-disarmament', as described in his paper, in the solution of conflicts with which the United Nations is currently dealing and of his view that small arms are probably responsible for most of the deaths in these conflicts. It shares the concern of the Secretary-General at the negative consequences for international peace and security which often arise from the illicit traffic in conventional weapons, including small arms, and takes note of his view that the search for effective solutions to this problem should begin now. In this context the Council stresses the vital importance of the strict implementation of existing arms embargo regimes. It welcomes and supports efforts with regard to international measures to curb the spread of anti-personnel land-mines and to deal with the land-mines already laid, and in this regard welcomes General Assembly resolutions 49/75 D of 15 December 1994 and 49/215 of 23 December 1994. It reaffirms its deep concern over the tremendous humanitarian problems caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded devices to the populations of mine-infested countries and emphasizes the need for an increase in mine-clearing efforts by the countries concerned and with the assistance of the international community.

"The Security Council stresses the importance it attaches to the effective implementation of all measures taken by it to maintain or restore international peace and security including economic sanctions. It agrees that the object of economic sanctions is not to punish but to modify the behaviour of the country or party which represents a threat to international peace and security. The steps demanded of that country or party should be clearly defined in Council resolutions, and the sanctions regime in question should be subject to periodic review and it should be lifted when the objectives of the appropriate provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions are achieved. The Council remains concerned that, within this framework, appropriate measures are taken to ensure that humanitarian supplies reach affected populations and appropriate consideration is given to submissions received from neighbouring or other States affected by special economic problems as a result of the imposition of sanctions. The Council urges the Secretary-General, when considering the allocation of resources available to him within the Secretariat, to take appropriate steps to reinforce those sections of the Secretariat dealing directly with sanctions and their various aspects so as to ensure that all these matters are addressed in as effective, consistent and timely a manner as possible. It welcomes the Secretary-General's efforts to study ways and means of addressing the various aspects related to sanctions in his report.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance it attaches to the role that regional organizations and arrangements can play in helping to maintain international peace and security. It underlines the need for effective coordination between their efforts and those of the United Nations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. It recognizes that the responsibilities and capacities of different regional organizations and arrangements vary, as well as the readiness and competence of regional organizations and arrangements, as reflected in their charters and other relevant documents, to participate in efforts to maintain international peace and security. It welcomes the Secretary-General's willingness to assist regional organizations and arrangements as appropriate in developing a capacity for preventive action, peacemaking and, where appropriate, peace-keeping. It draws particular attention in this regard to the needs of Africa. It encourages the Secretary-General and Member States to continue to consider ways and means of improving practical cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements in these areas. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue the practice of meetings on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

"The Security Council recognizes the crucial importance of the availability of the necessary financial resources both for preventive action and operations undertaken to sustain international peace and security. It therefore urges Member States to honour their financial obligations to the United Nations. At the same time, the Council emphasizes the continuing necessity for careful control of peace-keeping costs and for the most efficient possible use of peace-keeping funds and other financial resources.

"The Security Council will keep the Secretary-General's paper under consideration. The Council invites all interested Member States to present further reflections on United Nations peace-keeping operations, and in particular on ways and means to improve the capacity of the United Nations for rapid deployment. It invites the Secretary-General to keep it closely informed of the action he takes in follow-up to the paper and to the present statement. It hopes that the General Assembly, as well as other organizations and entities, will give consideration of the paper a high degree of priority and will take decisions on those matters which fall within their direct responsibility."

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9 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3506th meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 March 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the reports of its Mission to Burundi which visited Bujumbura on 10 and 11 February 1995 and welcomes the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Mission (S/1995/163). It expresses its appreciation to the Mission members for their efforts.

"The Security Council recalls its earlier statements on the situation in Burundi, in particular that of 31 January 1995 (S/PRST/1995/5). It remains deeply concerned that a climate of insecurity continues to prevail in Burundi. It condemns the activities of those, both within and outside the country, who seek to nullify the agreed power-sharing arrangements contained in the Convention of Government of 10 September 1994 by resorting to undemocratic methods such as intimidation and incitement to violence, as well as guerilla activities and subversive political activity. Such actions have threatened peace, stability and national reconciliation.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the Convention of Government and for the coalition Government established under it. In this connection, it notes the appointment of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and urges all parties in Burundi to work together to ensure stability in the country.

"The Security Council reaffirms the view that impunity is a fundamental problem in Burundi, one which seriously endangers security in the country, and stresses the importance it attaches to assistance being given to help strengthen the national judicial system. In this context, it underlines the role that could be played by an international commission of inquiry into the 1993 coup attempt and into the massacres that followed, established in accordance with the Convention of Government.

"The Security Council strongly reaffirms its support for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention of Government calling for the holding of a national debate with the participation of all segments of the society in Burundi, as a means of fostering political dialogue.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of assisting the Government of Burundi in its efforts to restore stability and promote national reconciliation. In this context, it encourages the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Burundi, to augment the United Nations presence in the country, in order to assist the Government of Burundi in strengthening the national judicial system, training civilian police forces and establishing an effective administrative presence in the provinces. It commends the important role played by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council reiterates that improving the security situation in Burundi must be given high priority. It encourages the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with the Government of Burundi and in close coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to reinforce the office he has established in Burundi. Consideration could also be given to the role human rights monitors could play.

"The Security Council also recognizes the significant contribution made by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) military observers. It encourages the OAU, in consultation with the Government of Burundi, to further increase their number and calls upon the international community to assist the OAU in this regard.

"The Security Council further calls on all parties in Burundi to cooperate with international observers and other personnel by ensuring unimpeded access to all parts of the country.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep it fully informed of developments in Burundi. The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

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S/PRST/1995/11
10 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3508th meeting of the Security Council, held on 10 March 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Angola", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the Secretary-General's report of 5 March 1995 (S/1995/177) on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

"The Security Council welcomes the assessment by the Secretary-General that the cease-fire is generally holding. It also welcomes the continued deployment of United Nations military and police observers to sites outside Luanda. It notes, however, that this deployment has been complicated by a lack of full cooperation by the parties, in particular UNITA. In the month since the adoption of its resolution 976 (1995), a number of developments have taken place which give rise to serious concern. These include the lack of progress in disengagement around Uige and Negage, the escalation of tensions in the last few weeks, especially in the northern region, the lack of security clearances to visit certain areas and restrictions on movement of UNAVEM III personnel, attacks on villages, mine-laying, unauthorized movement of troops and military air activity, and attacks on United Nations aircraft, in particular that by UNITA in Quibaxe on 13 February 1995. The Council calls upon the parties, particularly UNITA, to refrain from such activities, to end negative propaganda, to improve their cooperation with each other and the United Nations through the Joint Commission and to cooperate fully with humanitarian operations.

"The Security Council reiterates its call upon President Dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi to meet without delay as a sign of their joint commitment to the peace process and urges the Government of Angola and UNITA to finalize arrangements towards this end immediately, with a view to ensuring the necessary political momentum for the successful implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. It also encourages the observer States to the peace process, the Organization of African Unity and the neighbouring countries involved to continue their efforts aimed at the full implementation of the peace process.

"The Security Council reaffirms the obligations of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993) and reiterates its call upon the Government of Angola and UNITA to cease the acquisition of arms and war matériel as agreed in the "Acordos de Paz".

"The Security Council notes that the United Nations is currently pursuing with the Government of Angola the provision of critical services and access to key facilities such as ports and airports for UNAVEM III. Early and positive responses from the Government of Angola to the United Nations requirements in this respect are essential to UNAVEM III's deployment. It calls on both parties to expedite the completion of the initial tasks in order to ensure the prompt deployment of UNAVEM III units. The Council reiterates the importance it attaches to the Government of Angola and the United Nations agreeing on a Status of Forces Agreement by 20 March 1995 as called for in paragraph 13 of its resolution 976 (1995). It will continue to monitor closely developments in these areas.

"The Security Council commends the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for their continuing efforts to distribute humanitarian relief throughout Angola. It reiterates the importance it attaches to a well-coordinated and comprehensive mine clearance programme which will, inter alia, improve the logistics of humanitarian operations. It calls upon both parties to cooperate with the United Nations and with the non-governmental organizations to put this in place. It deplores the killing on 2 March of three Angolans and one German, all members of the "Cap Anamur" non-governmental organization involved in demining activities, as well as attacks in the last month on ICRC aircraft and road transport and reminds the parties of its repeated demands that they refrain from all actions which could jeopardize the safety of humanitarian personnel in Angola.

"The Security Council endorses the Secretary-General's conclusions that the Government of Angola and UNITA must provide more concrete signs of cooperation and goodwill in the implementation of the peace process. It reminds the parties that the deployment of the units of UNAVEM III will not take place unless the conditions contained in paragraph 32 of his report of 1 February 1995 (S/1995/97) have been met. It has taken careful note of the Secretary-General's statement that, unless he can report by 25 March 1995 that the parties have complied with these conditions, it will not be possible to ensure that deployment begins on 9 May 1995. Time is short if the opportunity created by the Lusaka Protocol and the Council's resolution 976 (1995) is not to be lost. The Council joins the Secretary-General in calling upon the parties to take the necessary steps now to ensure that deployment of these units can begin as planned on 9 May 1995. It requests the Secretary-General to keep it closely informed of developments in this regard."